

Course Information



A Level English Language

What is A Level English Language?

A Level English Language is about:

- Studying how individuals, groups and ideas are represented by the language that they use or the language that is used to describe them.
- Investigating how the English language has changed historically and continues to change today.
- Learning about how factors such as gender, social groups and age affect the way that we speak.
- Researching the way in which, and reasons why, English has travelled across the globe and now exists in multiple varieties across the planet.
- Going back to where it all began– asking the big questions like: How did we learn to speak? How did we learn to read and write?
- Learning to produce high quality creative writing with the intention of entertaining, persuading or informing and how to carry out a language investigation.

Entry requirements: Grade 5 at GCSE

How is it assessed?

Exam Board: AQA

Students take two exams covering all topics at the end of Year 13. Coursework completed at school is moderated externally.

Breakdown:

- Language, the Individual and Society (Examination 40%): Close analysis of two texts, one older and one contemporary. A question relating to how children learn to speak or how they learn to read and write.
- Language diversity and Change (Examination 40%): Essays that explore language diversity and change as well as attitudes towards language. A directed writing task on a given subject.
- Language in Action (Coursework: non-examination 20%): An investigation into any aspect of language chosen by the student and a piece of original writing with a commentary.

What next?

English Language A Level is a key asset if you are interested in any career that involves written and spoken communication and a comprehensive grasp of the English language. Career options include work in publishing, advertising, law, journalism or media. The module on Child Language Development will prove exceptionally interesting and useful to anybody interested in any career working with children or young people, such as teaching, childcare, social care or speech therapy.

Extra information

We recommend that you enjoy some background reading alongside the course:

- Regularly read and familiarise yourself with a range of broadsheet newspapers.
- Listen to a range of radio stations and podcasts.
- *Wicked Words* by Terry Deary.
- *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language* by David Crystal.
- *Mother Tongue: The Story of the English Language* by Bill Bryson.

For more information about the course or your suitability for it, talk to your English teacher.